

Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1868.

Reduction of Municipal Expenditures.
As the Democratic party claims to have
elected their candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia,
and as the Democratic representation in the
new Councils will be greatly increased,
tax-payers will anxiously await the reduction
in municipal expenditures which have been
promised as the inevitable result of the local
defeat of the Republicans. It is true that if
we look to New York we find little to encourage
hopes of economy in the example fur-
nished by the favorites of the citadel of De-
mocracy, Tammany Hall. But giving the
Philadelphia Democrats credit for sincerity,
we are curious to see where they will begin
their work of reform. If they are really in
earnest, we will throw out a few ideas which
are not altogether unworthy of their consid-
eration.

This city is now paying for police pur-
poses about one million dollars annually. For
this sum it secures the services of a body of
men scarcely more numerous than a regiment
of soldiers.

The cost of an infantry regiment to the
United States Government (exclusive of
transportation) is scarcely more than one-
third of the amount paid by Philadelphia for
maintaining her police force. It is not at all
improbable that the police could be organized
on a semi-military basis, the city furnishing
rations and clothing as well as monthly pay,
in such a manner as would secure the ser-
vices of a sufficient number of competent men
for \$500,000 per annum. That sum, appro-
priated in the manner indicated, would cer-
tainly afford a much better compensation to
the guardians of the city's peace than is
awarded to an equal number of the protectors
of the national safety and honor. As there
are thousands of persons at all times anxious
to "get on the police," we feel confident that
a sufficient number of aspirants to keep
the ranks full would be found, even
if the pay were reduced in the man-
ner indicated. Suitable and sufficient
rooms for cooking, sleeping, and eating pur-
poses could be supplied at comparatively
little expense, and unmarried men, at least,
would derive as much net revenue from this
system as they obtain from their present salar-
ies. Married men of character and special
usefulness might be appointed as officers, with
increased pay, and with the privilege possessed
by officers of the army of commuting their
rations for money. There might be some
objections raised to this plan at the outset,
and there may be some serious obstacles to
its adoption, which could only be gradually
overcome, but we are disposed to believe that
after the people are earnestly impressed with
a desire to lighten the heavy and growing
burdens of municipal government, they will
insist upon the trial of some such experiment
as we have suggested. The police department
now requires annual appropriations which
are only less than those granted to the de-
partment of education; and to interest on city
loans, and if the Democratic sages will devise
a plan to reduce by one-half the expenditures
of this important department, without dimi-
nishing its efficiency, they will establish a strong
claim to the gratitude of tax-payers.

There are also other departments whose
expenses might be materially reduced if Coun-
cilmembers were resolutely determined to relieve
tax-payers. Of the sum appropriated to the
Highway Department for lighting the city and
for cleaning the streets—amounting in the
aggregate to more than a million of dollars—
much might be saved if proper efforts were
made to protect the municipal treasury from
exorbitant charges, and from the payment of
bills which should be liquidated by property-
owners or corporations, whose private interests
are now promoted at the public expense.

The city is spending more than half a mil-
lion of dollars annually to support paupers
and prisoners in idleness. No serious efforts
are made to secure from them, in return, any
appreciable amount of useful labor, although
their ranks embrace a large proportion of ab-
bodied persons. Few other communities
would tolerate the continued taxation of the
provident and industrious for the support of
the indolent and vicious to the extent to
which it has been sanctioned by the citizens of
Philadelphia. Wise and effective municipal
legislation, followed up by vigorous efforts to
reform old abuses, would speedily have the
effect of either reducing the population of the
Alms-house and County Prison, or of making
their able-bodied inhabitants contribute
largely to the support of their incapable asso-
ciates. Both these results, indeed, might be
not unreasonably anticipated.

The Democratic policy of antagonism, by
parliamentary tricks, to loans which are es-
sential (as, for instance, the water loan) is dis-
graceful. It saves no money, but often causes
increased expenditures in the end by the
delay it occasions in the completion of neces-
sary improvements. If the Democrats really
wish to reduce taxation, they must devise
rational measures for reducing the current
expenditures, and favor rigid but not ridi-
culous or ruinous economy.

A Promise of Better Things.

The New York Herald regards the demise of
Rhet's Charleston Mercury and Hunnicutt's
Richmond News Nation as a promise of better
things for the South, an opinion in which all
candid persons must coincide. The great

difference between these two agitators is very
material. Rhet is a representative Southern
man, while Hunnicutt is not a representative
Northerner. In the high days of Rebellion
the Rhetts were the ruling spirits of the States
which are now undergoing the process of re-
construction. If they had been ignored by
the Southern people as soon as the civil war
was brought to a close, the process of recon-
struction would have been greatly facilitated,
and in all probability the whole Southern sec-
tion of the country would now have been re-
posing in profound peace, and far advanced
on the high road to prosperity. But the close
of the war did not mark the termination of
the career of the Rhetts, and all the barbari-
ties which have disgraced the States lately in
open rebellion are to be charged to their de-
fiant attitude and the encouragement which
they have received from the Northern Demo-
cracy. The election of General Grant, how-
ever, has already produced such a reaction
upon the Southern mind that the most ramp-
ant of the fire-eating journals has been
obliged to succumb—a circumstance which
should encourage all true Southern men, of
whatever race or party, to press forward the
great work of reconciliation.

The final suppression of Hunnicutt is almost
equally significant. This man is an extreme
crazy fanatic of the Wendell Phillips school,
happily as scarce in the North as in the South.
A few of his class found their way South in
the wake of the loyal army, and for awhile
they succeeded in making some headway with
the freedmen. But for months past Hun-
nicutt's path has been an uphill one, and more
than once has he sustained a damaging fall.
The fact that he has at last been obliged to
suspend the publication of his paper shows
that his adherents have fallen off until he
stands almost if not quite alone in Virginia,
as all those of his class will soon stand in
every Southern State. With the Rhetts and
the Hunnicutts all out of the way, one of the
greatest elements of discord in the South will
disappear, and the perfect peace and prosper-
ity which the election of General Grant
foreshadowed brought much nearer their final
consummation.

Madame Parepa-Rosa's Vindication.
The action of the Ministerial Association of
Chicago in denouncing the theatres and the the-
atrical profession, and calling upon the press
and the legislatures to unite with the clergy
in an effort to suppress them, has given rise to
a wordy war, in which many harsh things
have been said about actors and actresses by
persons who were not the best fitted by expe-
rience and knowledge to pass judgment on
their shortcomings. The many estimable
ladies and gentlemen who earn their living
by appearing before the public as actors and
singers have naturally been stung to the quick
by the unjust aspersions which have been cast
upon them and their calling. But, more long-
suffering, charitable, and patient than many
of their calumniators would be under similar
circumstances, the members of the theatrical
profession are generally content to let the
slanders pass by in silence, and to console
themselves with the good opinion of those
who are most competent to form a correct
estimate of their merits. Sometimes, how-
ever, the voice of an actor or singer is heard
in indignant protest against injustice from a
quarter where they had at least a right to ex-
pect a large-hearted Christian charity for the
frailties of human nature, and a sincere and
earnest effort to find out the truth before in-
dulgence in wholesale denunciation. Madame
Parepa-Rosa has written a very feeling letter
to one of the Chicago newspapers, protesting,
in temperate and lady-like language, but with
feminine indignation and heart-swelling ex-
pression by a plentiful use of italics, against the
aspersions which have been cast upon the
profession of which she is an ornament by
some of the clergymen of Chicago. She
asserts that the gifts of voice and memory,
which are the actor's and singer's capital, were
conferred by God alone; and with a pathetic
reminder of the disabilities under which the
members of her sex labor in obtaining remun-
erative employment, she adds: "As
ladies can earn so little in any
but a public performance, it is very
hard that an honest woman should have such
terms to her merely by being obliged,
through circumstances, to turn her talents to
account." Madame Rosa protests that it is
not right in any man, and particularly in a
clergyman, to condemn a class he does not
know; and while asserting that women not
virtuous are the exceptions and not the rule
in the profession to which she belongs,
she gives the names of a number of ladies, per-
sonally known to her, who are esteemed and
honored, and against whom slander has never
dared to utter a word. As to not being re-
ceived into society, or amid the family circles
of the best families in all countries, she asserts
that she has been welcomed everywhere, and
she believes her sister artists have had the
same experience of not finding sufficient time
to spare from their avocations to accept all
friendly invitations received. Those who un-
dertake wholesale denunciation of the stage
and its followers, until the immoral
influences of the play-house and opera-house
are proved beyond the possibility of dispute,
assume a grave responsibility, the full extent
of which they are evidently not aware. It is
scarcely to be expected that the publishers
and editors of respectable journals in all
civilized countries would admit in their
columns day after day criticisms, often lauda-
tory, of performances theatrical and operatic,
if the theatres were the sinks of corruption
that some very good people seem to imagine
them to be. The editors and critics are not
all vagabonds any more than the actors, and
we claim that the voice of the press is enti-
tled to as much weight in this matter as that
of the pulpit, at least until the pulpit is as
well informed as we are with regard to the
merits and demerits of the opera, drama, and
the men and women who make their living on

the stage. The pulpit might do much in the
way of making the stage purer and better, if
its great influence was used in a right man-
ner; but for it to accomplish anything, a dif-
ferent line of argument will have to be
adopted in the future from that of the past.

The Sale of the Beaumont Collection.
The first sale of the Beaumont collection of
pictures at Mr. Scott's Art Gallery, opposite the
Academy of Fine Arts, was well attended last
evening, and the bidding was spirited for some
of the works. The prices brought, however,
were extremely low, and we believe that all the
purchasers may congratulate themselves on
having obtained bargains.

The following are some of the pictures realized:
No. 7, "A Game of Dranghuts, Candle-light
Scene," by P. G. Hamann, \$50; No. 8, "Sunset
in the Tropics," by L. Mignot, \$35; "Sleep, Lamb,
and Fowl," No. 11, by Eugene Verboeckhoven,
\$25; "Mountain Landscape," No. 19, by Count
A. de Bylandt, \$15; "An Interior, Preparing for
School," No. 20, by F. Stroebel, \$20; "Pleasant
Thoughts," No. 21, by W. Auerberg, \$25;
"Twilight in Arabia," No. 23, by Theo-
dore Frere, \$150; "The Atelier in Dis-
order," No. 24, by Jernberg, \$100;
"May Morning," No. 29, by G. Walker, \$200;
"The Bottle, a Case of Difficulty," by Estiman
Johnson, \$250; "Market Day," No. 36, by Jan
Platcel, \$75; "The Expected Letter," No. 37, by
G. Barrett, \$170; "Evening," No. 40, by A.
Scheifboub, \$400; "Arabian Fruit Seller,"
No. 44, by L. De Tevenet, \$47.50; "Winter Scene,"
No. 52, F. Kruseman, \$240; "View in the Pyra-
nees," No. 53, by E. Fort, \$210; "Shepherd and
Flock, Morning," No. 54, by Laurent de Buel,
\$300; "Grouse Shooting," No. 66, by C. F.
Decker, \$480; "Lady arranging Flowers in a
Vase," No. 68, by B. De Loos, \$212.50; "The Idle
Cook," No. 69, by A. Jernberg, \$120; "Coast of
Norway in Summer," No. 80, by J. R. Unterber-
ger, \$130. The fine picture of the "Market
Place in Cairo," No. 51, by W. Geulz, was
withdrawn, and also "A Rich Interior," No. 67,
by Carl Hoff.

The sale will be continued this evening, and
the pictures exhibited in the southeast gallery
will be put up. There are a number of beau-
tiful works still to be sold.

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HERE COMES DECEMBER!

Good-bye to November;
Now comes December,
With snow and with ice, and with frost;
The season of bowing
And storming and snowing,
As all of us know to our cost.

This weather's expected;
And he who's protected
Against the attacks of the storm,
By suitable raiment
(For which he's made payment),
Is sure to be healthy and warm.

'Tis winter, good neighbor!
Don't foolishly labor,
And worry with clothes thin or old;
But come, bring your cash on,
And dress in the fashion,
And keep yourself out of the cold.

Fashion and health, elegance and economy, warmth
and durability, beauty of fit and cheapness of price,
are all combined in the splendid stock of masculine
apparel for which the public are now rushing, in
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20 Yards wide Watson & Armstrong's Fine Damask
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24c, 26c, 28c, 30c, 32c, 34c, 36c, 38c, 40c, 42c, 44c, 46c,
48c, 50c, 52c, 54c, 56c, 58c, 60c, 62c, 64c, 66c, 68c, 70c,
72c, 74c, 76c, 78c, 80c, 82c, 84c, 86c, 88c, 90c, 92c, 94c,
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